

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Preister would move to amend. The amendment is found on page 482 of the Legislative Journal.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, honorable Speaker, friends all, I do have an amendment on this bill that I would ask your consideration of. The amendment is easy to understand in its wording. It simply eliminates the word "trapping". It takes out the word "trapping" and "trapper" from the proposed legislation in each of the places where that word or derivative of that word appears. And I would ask your consideration of doing this for a reason that I think most people can also understand. As worded, I believe that this piece of legislation would make it illegal to express the emotion of compassion, and I really don't think that the intention of this Legislature is to discourage compassion, particularly in a world today where we need more of that, and just so people understand. I know we've had some bills dealing with passion, I'm talking about compassion, the act of showing some concern for other life. The way I...the reason I say that is, as an example, if Senator Landis and his son were out for a walk this or other springtimes, and being a person who enjoys the out of doors and wants to share it with his son, and as they walk, they perchance to come upon an animal locked in a steel-jawed trap that they would be confronted with the dilemma of what do they do in order to rescue that animal or to proceed on and do nothing about the situation that the animal is in. This is a trap that catches the animal while it's alive. It holds the animal. And we heard testimony, or I guess it wasn't testimony but it was in the discussion at the committee hearing where these animals, at times, will chew off their own leg to allow them freedom to escape. In this situation, were Senator Landis and his son to decide that perhaps it's spring and they have a jacket on to throw a coat over the particular animal and free it from the trap, or to take it to a veterinarian to try and do something to help the animal, they would be in violation of the law. They would be subject to up to three months jail time, as well as up to a 500 dollar fine for merely expressing an act of compassion for an animal in distress. I don't think that's the intention of this bill but when we include trapping, we talk about basically three or four types of traps, actually. According to Game and Parks, there's a box trap that's allowed, there's a snare trap that's allowed, there's a steel jaw trap that's